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LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a filled halobutyl elastomer which comprises

reacting at least one mineral filler with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group to form a pre-reacted filler; and

admixing at least one halobutyl elastomer with the pre-reacted filler and optionally at least one silazane compound.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group comprises a primary alcohol group or a carboxylic acid group.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group comprises a primary alcohol group and an amine group separated by methylene bridges, which may be branched.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group comprises a carboxylic acid group and an amine group separated by methylene bridges, which may be branched.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, N,N-dimethylamino-ethanol, a natural or synthetic amino acid and protein.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the silazane compound is an organic silazane compound.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the silazane compound is a disilazane compound.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of regular or highly dispersable silica, silicates, clay, gypsum, alumina, titanium dioxide, talc and mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the halogenated butyl elastomer is a brominated butyl elastomer.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group is in the range of from 0.5 to 10 parts per hundred parts of elastomer.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of silazane is in the range of from 0.5 to 10 parts per hundred parts of elastomer.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of improving the abrasion resistance of a filled, cured elastomer composition comprising

reacting at least one mineral filler with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl containing group to make a pre-reacted filler;

admixing the pre-reacted filler with an elastomer to make an elastomer composition; and

curing the elastomer composition.

13. (Withdrawn) A filler for elastomeric compositions comprising at least one mineral filler reacted with at least one organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl containing group.

14. (Withdrawn) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the mineral filler is selected from the group consisting of regular or highly dispersable silica, silicates, clay, gypsum, alumina, titanium dioxide, talc and mixtures thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the elastomer is a halogenated butyl elastomer or a brominated butyl elastomer.

16. (Withdrawn) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the amount of the organic compound containing at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group is in the range of from 0.5 to 10 parts per hundred parts of elastomer.

17. (Withdrawn) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the organic compound comprises at least one primary alcohol group or a carboxylic acid group.

18. (Withdrawn) The filler of Claim 13, wherein a branched or unbranched methylene bridge separates the at least one basic nitrogen-containing group and at least one hydroxyl group.

19. (Withdrawn) The filler of Claim 13, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, N,N-dimethylamino-ethanol, a natural or synthetic amino acid and protein.

20. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, comprising admixing a silizane compound.